

# Gulf of Mexico Foundation

# Down Under, Out Yonder

## July 19-23, 2008

### **Land-Based Workshop Activities July 19-20, 2008:**

- Informative presentations and activities about the Flower Garden Banks NMS, coral reef biology, natural and human impacts on coral reefs, research in the sanctuary, resource management, etc.
- Reef fish identification course with field trip to Moody Gardens
- Networking with workshop presenters, alumni and other participants
- Development of action plans to incorporate new knowledge and skills into classroom

### **Field Activities (July 8-11, 2007):**

- Opportunity for up to 11 SCUBA dives
- Review of fish ID skills and participation in REEF's Great Annual Fish Count
- Informal discussions with researchers and staff

### **Post-Workshop Activities:**

- Workshop evaluation
- Post-test
- Thank you notes to workshop sponsors (optional)
- Implementation of action plans and follow-up summary to sanctuary

### **\$250 Workshop Tuition Includes:**

- Friday & Saturday night lodging
- All meals and snacks Saturday through Wednesday lunch
- Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) fish identification course
- REEF membership and fish census participation privileges
- All presentation and activity sessions
- Teaching tools and resources
- Boat trip, including SCUBA tank & air refills (regular retail value: \$450)

### **Other possible costs:**

- Dive insurance (if your regular health insurance does not cover air evacuation and hyperbaric chamber treatment)
- Travel to and from Galveston, TX
- Hotel before or after trip (if you choose to arrive early or stay overnight upon return). Remember, you must wait 24 hours after your last dive before you can fly.
- Dive gear rental. Tanks and air are included. Weights can be provided for those travelling by air. All other gear needs to be supplied by the participant.
- Souvenir T-shirts, etc. on dive boat
- Nitrox (\$45) - only for Nitrox-certified divers
- Pre-workshop dives, if required by dive review team (or as a refresher)
- Cost of the required physical examination

**How to apply:**

- Download or request an application
- Email completed application to: [franklin@gulfmex.org](mailto:franklin@gulfmex.org)

or mail to:

Franklin Viola

DUOY 2008

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**Applications must be received ASAP.**

Selected participants will be notified immediately.

An extensive package of paperwork will arrive after acceptance into the workshop.

All selected participants will be required to have a physical examination and medical history form signed by a doctor, certifying physical fitness for diving.

The physical includes a **required ECG/EKG and blood work** and must be between July 23, 2007 and July 19, 2008.

**A chest x-ray is also required** within 4 years of the workshop (since July 23, 2004).

**Selection Criteria:**

**1.** At least two-thirds of the participants will be selected from states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. The remaining positions will also be open to educators from other states.

**2.** Selection will be based primarily on the summary of plans to incorporate the newly gained knowledge and skills into existing classroom curricula. Dive experience will be a secondary consideration.

**3.** Please note that this is considered an intermediate to advanced dive site (depending on weather and sea surface conditions).

**Applicants MUST have previous open ocean, salt water diving experience.** Getting back on the boat can be TOUGH!!

The Gulf of Mexico Foundation reserves the right to deny participation based on medical history or insufficient dive experience.

**\*\*\*\* ADVISORY \*\*\*\***

Potential participants should be aware that the call to cancel the trip due to weather will not be made until noon the day of departure. In the event the dive portion of the trip is cancelled, the land-based presentations will still be presented. The dive related portion of your tuition will be refunded.

**\*\* CANCELLATIONS \*\***

Workshop participants who cancel their participation less than four weeks prior to departure will not be allowed a full refund of tuition. Those who cancel two weeks or less prior to departure will receive NO refund.

**Questions?**

Contact Franklin Viola - DUOY and Media Projects Coordinator

832.373.8393 or [franklin@gulfmex.org](mailto:franklin@gulfmex.org)